

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-10

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TO AMEMBASSY NASSAU PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC, BF

SUBJECT: CONGRESSIONAL REQUEST

1. CONGRESSMAN FLOYD SPENCE'S OFFICE HAS ASKED DEPT TO ASSIST ONE OF HIS CONSTITUENTS, DR. GENE PAYNE, WHO WAS RECENTLY INVOLVED IN INCIDENT WITH BAHAMIAN CUSTOMS.
2. UPON LANDING IN NASSAU ON MARCH 25, DR. PAYNE ALLEGEDLY WAS TAKEN TO CUSTOMS OFFICE FOR QUESTIONING. AFTER THREE HOURS HE WAS RELEASED WITHOUT CHARGES. CUSTOMS, HOWEVER, SEIZED PAYNE'S AIRCRAFT (CESSNA 310 NO. N3318X) REPORTEDLY WITHOUT GIVING PLAUSIBLE EXPLANATION.
3. EMBASSY REQUESTED TO LOOK INTO MATTER, AND INFORM DEPT OF GROUNDS CUSTOMS IS KEEPING AIRCRAFT AND WHAT ARE ITS PLANS REGARDING AIRCRAFT. UNDERSTAND CONTROLLER OF CUSTOMS JOHN ROLLE IS FAMILIAR WITH CASE. KISSINGER

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